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Introduction

On-site sewage disposal systems can provide an economical, practical, and environmentally sound method of treating and disposing of residential sewage. Past practices have focused on the disposal aspect, installing systems in the coarsest available soils. As our understanding of soil-based systems has increased, we have shifted to heightened levels of treatment prior to disposal. Unfortunately these new systems are sensitive to many factors including the strength of the waste flow. Systems designed based on typical residential flow, can experience problems when receiving high or unusual waste. The intent of this presentation is to discuss what makes up the residential waste and the impact that a high waste strength or unusual waste may have on the system.